

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ITEMS FOR MAY 11 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SESSION;
CEAUSCESCU'S VISIT, SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MOSCOW; SCIENTIFIC
FORUM

REF: A) USNATO 3811 B) USNATO 3903 C) USNATO 4289

1. PRESIDENT CEAUSCESCU'S APRIL VISIT TO U.S. WENT LARGELY
AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED. CHIEF ECONOMIC ITEMS ON AGENDA WERE
QUESTION OF CREDITS, THE ROMANIAN DESIRE FOR LONGER TERM
MFN AND THE RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT U.S.-ROMANIAN TRADE
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AGREEMENT. AS ANTICIPATED, ROMANIANS PUSHED FOR CHANGES
IN CURRENT MFN REVIEW PROCEDURE WHICH, IN EFFECT, EXTENDS
MFN TO ROMANIA ON YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS. GOR WOULD LIKE TO
SEE MFN RENEWED IN THREE YEAR INCREMENTS, AS A MINIMUM.
ROMANIANS WERE INFORMED THAT SUCH A CHANGE COULD NOT BE
INITIATED WITHOUT AN AMENDMENT TO TRADE ACT AND THAT FOR
THE MOMENT ADMINISTRATION DID NOT BELIEVE IT WISE TO SEND

A PROPOSAL FOR SUCH A MODIFICATION TO CONGRESS. ROMANIANS ALSO PRESSED FOR MORE FAVORABLE EXPORT CREDIT TERMS BUT WERE TOLD THAT WHILE EX-IM AND CCC CREDITS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO EXTEND A PREFERENTIAL LENDING RATE TO ROMANIA. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT BILATERAL TRADE

AGREEMENT AND, SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF TRADE ACT, WE INTEND TO RENEW AGREEMENT WHEN IT EXPIRES IN AUGUST 1978. NO POSITIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED ON OUR PART TO RENEW AGREEMENT.

2. FYI -- ONE ADDITIONAL THEME ON WHICH ROMANIANS MADE STRONG PITCH WAS QUESTION OF OBTAINING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR U.S. EXPORT LICENSES INVOLVING ROMANIA. WE ASSURED ROMANIANS THAT THEY WERE CURRENTLY RECEIVING AS FAVORABLE TREATMENT AS POSSIBLE AND PROMISED THAT, IN GENERAL, WE WOULD TRY TO SPEED UP PROCESSING OF ALL EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS.

3. ECONOMIC MATTERS WERE NOT ON AGENDA DURING SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT" SOVIETS RAISED A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC ISSUES IN PASSING HOWEVER THESE WERE NOT DISCUSSED FURTHER.

4. EXPERTS MEETING TO DISCUSS SCIENTIFIC FORUM NOTED IN BELGRADE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT WILL BEGIN IN BONN ON JUNE 20.
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TO DATE USG HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED ON QUESTION OF BASING SCIENTIFIC FORUM IN ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH FRG HAD AT ONE POINT ENVISIONED IN 1973 THAT FORUM MIGHT BE HEADQUARTERED IN BERLIN, THIS WAS WITHDRAWN IN LIGHT OF VIGOROUS EASTERN OPPOSITION. ONE CURRENT READING IS THAT FORUM, IF APPROVED AT MADRID FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE, WOULD NOT HAVE PERMANENT BASE OF OPERATIONS BUT WOULD ROTATE ITS SESSIONS FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY.

5. SUGGESTIONS FOR COLLOQUIUM THEME WILL BE FORWARDED. PRIOR TO MAY 11 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING. CHRISTOPHER

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